With respect to the use of armed or lethal force, Christians, Muslims, and others typically make use of frameworks designed to preserve or maintain order, first and foremost by reserving the right of war to established public authorities. There are exceptions to this general rule, however, and this lecture will focus on some of those.

How individuals claim the right of war (or the right to use armed force)—that is, the reasons they give and the ways that religious ideas affect their choice of means—is of interest in the comparative study of religious ethics, as is the way such claims are received by a wider community.

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